

Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OMB-01 DHA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8923
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
CINUNC SEOUL IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, KS, KS, US
SUBJECT: ROK MEDIA REACTION TO DMZ INCIDENT

REF: SEOUL 6408

1. WEDNESDAY EVENING UNC ANNOUNCEMENT OF MURDER OF TWO U.S.
MILITARY OFFICERS AT PANMUNJOM DOMINATED THURSDAY MORNING
PAPERS WITH REPORTS UNC COMMANDER STILWELL WILL STRONGLY
PROTEST INCIDENT; THAT UNC CALLED FOR MAC MEETING TODAY.
PRESS FRONTPAGED TOKYO CORRESPONDENT DISPATCH THAT PANMUNJOM
INCIDENT GIVEN PAGE-ONE COVERAGE IN WEDNESDAY JAPANESE PAPERS,
AND UPI TOKYO STORY THAT PYONGYANG RADIO ASSERTED GIS IGNORED
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NK REQUEST TO STOP WORK IN JSA, BUT DID NOT MENTION ANYTHING

ABOUT DEATHS OF TWO US MILITARY OFFICERS AND INJURY OF OTHERS. PRESS ALSO FRONTPAGED EXCERPTS 8/18 ROKG MCUI SPOKESMAN KIM DONG HO'S STATEMENT VOICING ANGER OVER INCIDENT, CALLING IT "BARBAROUS AND INHUMANE...WE DEPLORE IT IN THE NAME OF ALL FREE WORLD PEOPLE..." PRESS IN CITY-NEWS PAGES GAVE TOP PLAY TO EXCERPTS 8/18 INTERVIEW WITH WITNESS KSC WORKER KWAK DUK HWAN. PRESS FRONTPAGED UPI STORY CITING WH SPOKESMAN DISCLOSING PRESIDENT FORD CALLED INCIDENT "VICIOUS AND UNPROVOKED MURDER".

2. CHOSUN ILBO'S PAGE-THREE FEATURE COLUMN CARRIED DISCUSSION BETWEEN KYUNGHEE UNIVERSITY PROF KIM JOM KON AND KOREAN MILITARY SCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE DIRECTOR DR. CHOI SUK. CHOI CALLED INCIDENT AN "OPEN CHALLENGE TO ARMISTICE AGREEMENT"...KIM SAID "IT INTENTIONAL ATTACK ORDERED BY HIGHER AUTHORITIES..TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH U.S. ELECTION AND NAC SUMMITRY...IT HAS PROVEN NATURE OF TERRORIST NK...WE MUST WATCH U.S. REACTION.. CHOI: "U.S. COULD HARDLY LAUNCH A DIRECT RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST NK."

KIM: "U.S. IS LIKELY TO REACT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. HOW THE U.S. WILL EVALUATE RECENT SERIES OF PROVOCATIONS IS AN OPEN QUESTION. THE U.S. MUST COME UP WITH STRONG COUNTER MEASURES AGAINST THE NK THREAT, THROUGH THE ARMISTICE SYSTEM. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHO THE NEXT U.S. PRESIDENT WILL BE, BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD RECOGNIZE AGAIN THE TERRORIST NATURE OF NK. SOME AMERICANS BELIEVE KIM IL-SUNG CAN BE BROUGHT INTO RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE, BUT ROKG AND ROK PEOPLE SHOULD BE ALERT AGAINST POSSIBLE US-NK CONTACTS. OUR POSITION IS DIFFERENT FROM VN; BUT WE CAN'T SAY "IT WON'T HAPPEN HERE" (IMPLYING ABANDONMENT BY USG.)" CHOI: "WE KOREANS WILL TRY TO INFORM THE WORLD ABOUT THE BRUTALITY OF NK."

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT: LEADING INDEPENDENT DONGA ILBO CARRIED REACTION COMMENT FROM KOREANS WHO AGREED INCIDENT WAS INTENTIONAL PROVOCATION AND THAT U.S. WILL REACT ACCORDINGLY, BUT THROUGH ARMISTICE STRUCTURE. KOREA PROF. SAID ACTION DESIGNED PUSH FORD ADMINISTRATION INTO CORNER PRIOR TO ELECTION, THAT OTHER NK PROVOCATIONS LIKELY DURING ELECTION PERIOD. YUCHONGHOE REP. HAM MYUNG-SOO SAID SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS LAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPRING AT GEORGETOWN SEMINAR EXPRESSED FEAR OF INCIDENTS DURING ELECTION PERIOD. HAM SAID INCIDENT AIMED TO ACCELERATE USFK PULLOUT. PROF. KIM HONG-CHUL SAID NK ATTEMPTING TO MAKE DIRECT NK-USG CONTACT THROUGH PROVOCATION, WILL WATCH U.S. REACTION CAREFULLY. NK KNOWS US WILL BE ON SPOT DUE TO CURRENT U.S. PUBLIC ATTITUDE. WAR COLLEGE PROF. CHOI YUNG SAID INCIDENT INTENDED TO SPEED USFK DEPARTURE, DRIVE U.S. PUBLIC TO

ISOLATIONISM, AND TO STRENGTHEN DPRK INTERNATIONALLY.

4. OFFICIAL SEOUL SHINMUN ARTICLE SAID NK ATTEMPTING CREATE WAR ATMOSPHERE TO DISTRACT NK POPULACE FROM DOMESTIC TROUBLES AND TO CAUSE U.S. PUBLIC TO CALL FOR USFK PULLOUT. "WE ARE GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT UNC REACTION."

5. POLITICAL PARTY REACTION: SPOKESMAN FOR GOVERNMENT PARTY SAID "DRP CANNOT SUPPRESS THEIR INDIGNATION. THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS KIND OF ATROCITY IS TO RETALIATE AGAINST THIS BARBARIOUS ACT." OPPOSITION NDP SPOKESMAN SAID "BOTH U.S. AND KOREAN AUTHORITIES SHOULD PREPARE COMPLETE COUNTERMEASURES BY WHICH THEY CAN STOP ANY FUTURE RECURRENCE OF THIS TYPE OF INCIDENT."

6. COMMENT: LIKE ALL KOREANS WE HAVE TALKED TO IN LAST 24 HOURS, PRESS, IN ADDITION TO EXPRESSING INDIGNATION, IS CLEARLY DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT U.S. MAY NOT REACT WITH SUFFICIENT SHOW OF STRENGTH. SOUTH KOREANS ARE WATCHING.
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